

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1. **(Presently Amended)** A sliding bearing for supporting an opposing shaft movable in a sliding direction against said sliding bearing, said sliding bearing comprising:

a backing metal, and

a copper alloy consisting essentially of

copper,

from 0.1 to 2% by weight of Ag, and

from 1 to 10% by weight of Sn, ~~the balance of the alloy consisting essentially of~~

Cu,

said alloy bonded to said backing metal, and having on its side opposite to the backing metal a roughened surface of approximately 0.5 to approximately 10 μm of roughness (Rz);

said alloy having a first layer parallel to and adjacent to said backing metal, and a second layer that is not directly adjacent to said backing metal;

wherein said roughened surface is coated with a coating layer comprising at least one thermosetting resin, which is selected from the group consisting of polyimide resin, polyamide-imide resin, epoxy resin and phenol resin, and which contains from 55 to 95% by weight of MoS_2 , and wherein said roughened surface is formed of grooves extending in the sliding direction;

wherein Ag and Sn are ~~solid-dissolved~~ solid solution in the copper alloy without forming a secondary phase of Ag and Sn in at least the area of said second layer directly adjacent said roughened surface, ~~where essentially no secondary phase of either Ag or Sn or both is formed;~~ and,

wherein said second layer contains a second-layer component consisting of one of:

~~solid-dissolved~~ solid solution of Ag and Sn,

a hexagonal compound of ~~solid-dissolved~~ solid solution of Ag and Sn,

a hexagonal compound of Cu and ~~solid-dissolved~~ solid solution of Ag and Sn,

a eutectic of ~~solid-dissolved~~ solid solution of Ag and Sn, or

a eutectic of Cu and ~~solid-dissolved~~ solid solution of Ag and Sn;

in higher concentration of Ag and Sn than that of said first layer.

Claim 2. (Presently Amended) A sliding bearing for supporting an opposing shaft movable in a sliding direction against said sliding bearing, said sliding bearing consisting essentially of a copper alloy containing

copper,

from 0.1 to 2% by weight of Ag, from 1 to 10% by weight of Sn, and

10% by weight or less of at least one additive element selected from the group consisting of Sb, In, Al, Mg and Cd, ~~the balance of the alloy consisting essentially of Cu,~~

said alloy bonded to a backing metal and having on its side opposite to the backing metal a roughened surface of approximately 0.5 to approximately 10 μm of roughness (R_z); and

said alloy having a first layer parallel to and adjacent to said backing metal, and a second layer that is not directly adjacent to said backing metal;

wherein said roughened surface is coated with a coating layer comprising at least one thermosetting resin, which is selected from the group consisting of polyimide resin, polyamide-imide resin, epoxy resin and phenol resin, and which contains from 55 to 95% by weight of MoS_2 , and wherein said roughened surface is formed of grooves extending in the sliding direction;

wherein Ag and Sn and said at least one additive element are **solid-dissolved solid solution** in the Cu matrix of the copper alloy **without forming a secondary phase of Ag and Sn and said additive element** in at least the area **of said second layer directly** adjacent said roughened surface; ~~where essentially no secondary phase of either Ag or Sn or said additive element, or a secondary phase of any combination of these, is formed;~~

and,

wherein said second layer contains a component consisting of **at least one of**:

solid-dissolved solid solution of Ag and Sn and **at least one of** said additive **element elements**,

a hexagonal compound of **solid-dissolved solid solution of** Ag and Sn and **at least one of** said additive **element elements**,

a hexagonal compound of ~~solid-dissolved~~ solid solution of Cu and Ag and Sn and at least one of said additive ~~element~~ elements,

a eutectic of ~~solid-dissolved~~ solid solution of Ag and Sn and at least one of said additive ~~element~~ elements, or

a eutectic of Cu and ~~solid-dissolved~~ solid solution of Ag and Sn and at least one of said additive ~~element~~ elements;

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in higher total atomic concentration of Ag and Sn and said additive element than that of said first layer.

Claim 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (previously amended) A sliding bearing according to claim 1, wherein said roughened surface is further roughened by shot-blasting, etching, flame-spraying or chemical treatment.

Claim 5 (Previously amended) A sliding bearing according to claim 1, wherein said roughened surface is formed by shot-blasting, etching, flame-spraying or chemical treatment of a surface of grooves extending in the sliding direction.

Claim 6 (Previously amended) A sliding bearing according to claim 1, wherein the average particle diameter of said MoS₂ is 15 μm or less.

Claim 7 (Previously amended) A sliding bearing according to claim 1, wherein said coating layer further contains one or more of a solid lubricant, extreme pressure agent and friction adjusting agent.

Claim 8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (Previously amended) A sliding bearing according to claim 2, wherein said roughened surface is further roughened by shot-blasting, etching, flame-spraying or chemical treatment.

Claim 10 (Previously amended) A sliding bearing engine according to claim 2, wherein said roughened surface is formed by shot-blasting, etching, flame-spraying or chemical treatment of a surface of grooves extending in the sliding direction.

Claim 11. (Previously amended) A sliding bearing according to claim 1, wherein the concentration of Ag and Sn in said second layer of said second-layer component is at least 1.3 times higher than that of said first layer.

Pl Claim 12 (Previously amended) A sliding bearing according to claim 2, wherein the concentration of Ag and Sn in said second layer of said second-layer component is at least 1.3 times higher than that of said first layer.
